



REPORT OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE

We hereby submit to the Board of Selectmen and the citizens of Alton, the Report of the Budget Committee of the Town of Alton for 2007. Committee members for 2007-2008 include the following:

Stephen Miller, Chairman
Gregory Fuller, Vice-Chairman
R. Virgil MacDonald, Member
Karen Painter, Member
Elizabeth Dominick, Member
Jeffrey St. Cyr, School Board Representative
Peter Bolster, Selectmen's Representative

RSA32:16 Duties and Authority of the Budget Committee. In any town which has adopted the provisions of this subdivision, the Budget Committee shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

1. To prepare the budget as provided in RSA 32:5 to each annual or special meeting of the voters of the municipality, and if the municipality is a town, the budget of any school district wholly within the town, unless the warrant for such meetings does not propose any appropriation.
2. To confer with the governing body and bodies and with other officers, department heads, and other officials, relative to estimated costs, revenues anticipated, and services performed to the extent deemed necessary by the budget committee. It shall be the duty of all such officers and other persons to furnish such pertinent information to the budget committee.
3. To conduct public hearings required under RSA 32:5.I.
4. To forward copies of the final budgets to the clerk, or clerks, as required by RSA 32:5.VI, and in addition to deliver two copies of such budget and recommendations upon special warrant articles to the respective governing body or bodies at least 20 days before the date set for the annual or special meeting to be posted with the warrant.

The Budget Committee meets once per month from April to September to review monthly expenditures and twice per week beginning in October to review expenditures and interview department heads who meet to defend the next year's operating budget and requested capital expenditures that are to be reflected in upcoming warrant articles. All meetings are open to the public and there were no non-public meetings scheduled for the 2008 town or school budget. We had our public hearing on January 9th and 10th, 2008. Your budget committee recommended a 2008 operating budget of \$5,973,360 which was an increase of \$307,970 or 5.4%. There was a nominal reduction of \$6,548 from the Board of Selectmen's final proposed budget of \$5,979,908. The Budget Committee recommended special warrant articles totaling \$1,515,001. The Alton School Board voted to jointly recommend our 2008-2009 school budget of \$12,618,314.00 an increase of 3.12% over last year.

The Budget Committee wishes to thank the governing bodies and department heads of the Town and schools for presenting a well thought out fiscally responsible budget for our consideration. Their cooperation and professionalism is the standard that was and should be expected from your elected and appointed officials. Thank you again.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen P. Miller, Chairman